



Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

March 8, 2002

In reply refer to: TNP-TPP-3

To: People Interested in the McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project

Bonneville Power Administration (Bonneville) has completed a draft environmental review of our proposed McNary-John Day Transmission Line Project. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or the summary of the draft EIS is enclosed. This letter describes how to comment on the draft EIS, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to meetings.

The draft EIS describes the proposed project, tells why we need it, discusses the environmental and social impacts the project would create, and lists the mitigation measures that would lessen or eliminate those impacts. We want your comments on the draft EIS. Did we analyze all the resources important to you? Are there other ways to lessen impacts? We greatly appreciate your time in reviewing the document and giving us your comments.

How to Comment – There are a number of ways you may comment. If you comment by April 22, 2002 we'll be able to consider your comments in our proposal. Write a letter or send the comment form to BPA, Communications – KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212; call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message (please include the name of this project); come to one of the public meetings identified below; or send an e-mail to comment@bpa.gov.

Public Meetings - We have scheduled three open-house public meetings to hear your comments on the draft EIS. The meetings will be held:

April 8, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Hermiston Community Center
415 South Highway 395
Hermiston, OR

April 9, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Paterson School
51409 West Prior Road
Paterson, WA

April 10, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Roosevelt School
615 Chinook Avenue
Roosevelt, WA

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so please stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to answer your questions on the draft EIS and take your comments.

Process/Schedule – We will read and consider all the comments submitted during the comment period, which ends on April 22, 2002. A final EIS is expected to be published early summer 2002 (if you received the draft EIS, you will receive a final EIS unless you tell us you do not want a copy). All your comments and our responses to your comments will be published in the

final EIS. Also, where appropriate, the final EIS will be updated with any changes to the proposal or analysis in response to comments.

You may continue to see survey and environmental crews reviewing the route. Once we have completed the final EIS, Bonneville will issue a Record of Decision outlining whether and how we will proceed with the project. If we decide to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2003.

For More Information: Additional copies of the draft EIS are available by contacting 1-800-622-4520. The document is also posted on Bonneville's website at www.efw.gov, look for environmental planning/analysis, Active Projects. If you have any questions, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713; at my direct number, (360) 619-6327; or send an e-mail to lcdriessen@bpa.gov. Thank you for your interest in this project.

Sincerely,

Lou Driessen
Project Manager

2 Enclosures:
Draft EIS or Summary
Comment form